

Serial No.: 10/053,773

Attorney Docket No.: 20496/363

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-8 (Previously Canceled).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended). A method for setting a process for manufacturing a sealing seam, said method comprising:
providing heat to sealing partners;
using a temperature-measuring element;
measuring a temperature of an interface between said sealing partners during and after said step of providing heat to the sealing partners; and
establishing said process based on said temperature.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 9 wherein said the step of establishing the process for manufacturing a sealing seam comprises setting a time-temperature-pressure progression.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 9, wherein said the step of establishing the process for manufacturing a sealing seam comprises designating a time, said

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time to occur during said manufacturing, said time for performing a task being selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a tightness check;
- (b) a mechanical loadability; and
- (c) a combination of (a) and (b).

Claim 12 (Previously Added). The method of claim 9 further comprising, when at least one of said sealing partners comprises at least one sealing layer, identifying a time at which said temperature exceeds a melting temperature of said layer.

Claim 13 (Previously Added). The method of claim 9 further comprising, when at least one of said sealing partners comprises at least one sealing layer, evaluating, between a first time and a second time, an integral of a time-temperature progression of said temperature; wherein:

said first time is a time at which said temperature exceeds a melting temperature of said layer; and

said second time is a time at which said temperature falls below a solidification temperature of said layer.

Claim 14 (Previously Added). The method of claim 9 further comprising, when at least one of said sealing partners comprises at least one sealing layer, evaluating, between a first

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value of said temperature and a second value of said temperature, an integral of a time-temperature progression of said temperature;

wherein:

said first value is a value of said temperature when said temperature exceeds a melting temperature of said layer; and

said second value is a value of said temperature when said temperature falls below a solidification temperature of said layer.

Claim 15 (Previously Added). The method of claim 9 further comprising , when at least one of said sealing partners comprises at least one sealing layer, identifying a time at which said temperature falls below a melting temperature of said layer.

Claim 16 (Previously Added). The method of claim 9 further comprising, when at least one of said sealing partners comprises at least one sealing layer that undergoes recrystallization, detecting said recrystallization based on a reduction in a cooling rate.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 16 further comprising identifying a time, wherein at least a portion of said recrystallization occurs occurring at said time.